

25. The foam component according to claim 23, wherein said foam component comprises an elastic modulus of less than about 10 GN.m^{-2} .

26. A process of producing the foam component, comprising the steps of:

- a. obtaining a polymeric material;
- b. chemically or physically introducing gas into said polymeric material;
- c. prior to, simultaneously with, or subsequent to step (b), adding an active ingredient to said polymeric material;
- d. optionally, adding a plasticiser and/or water during steps (a), (b) and/or (c); and
- e. optionally, removing said water following one or more of steps (a) to (d).

27. A process of producing a foam component comprising a matrix containing cells, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a mixture of the polymeric material, active material and a liquid; and
 - b. evaporating at least a portion of the liquid to form spacings in the matrix to form an inner area of cells in the matrix
- wherein step (b) is conducted under increasing temperature, and then, decreasing pressure, to cause at least a portion of said liquid to evaporate.

28. The foam component according to claim 23, wherein the polymeric material comprises a water-soluble polymer and/or a water-dispersible polymer.

A 29. The foam component according to claim 23, wherein said component comprises a relative density of from about 0.05 to about 0.9.

30. The foam component according to claim 23, wherein said active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of: cleaning products, fabric care ingredients, pharmaceutical ingredients, cosmetic ingredients, personal care ingredients and mixtures thereof.

31. The foam component according to claim 23, wherein said active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of: moisture sensitive ingredients, liquid ingredients, enzymes, perfumes, surfactants, brighteners, bleaches, bleach activators, fabric softeners, fabric conditioners, antibacterial agents, effervescing systems and mixtures thereof.

32. The foam component according to claim 23, wherein said active ingredient further comprises an acidic compound.

33. The foam component according to claim 23, wherein said polymeric material comprises

an acidic polymer and/or an additional acidic agent.

34. The foam component according to claim 23, wherein the polymeric material comprises a water-soluble polymer selected from the group consisting of: polyvinylalcohol, polysaccharides, polycarboxylic acids, cellulose, modified cellulose, gums, derivatives of said polymers and mixtures thereof.

35. The foam component according to claim 23, further comprising a plasticiser selected from the group consisting of: glycerol, ethylene glycol, diethyleneglycol, propylene glycol, sorbitol and mixtures thereof.

36. The foam component according to claim 23 in the form of a particle having a mean particle size of from about 50 microns to about 4000 microns.

37. The foam component according to claim 23 in the form of a sheet having a mean thickness of from about 0.05 microns to about 10 centimeters.

38. The foam component according to claim 23 in the form of a three-dimensional shape selected from the group consisting of spheres, cubes, cylinders and combinations thereof.

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39. A cleaning composition, fabric care composition, cosmetic composition, personal care composition or pharmaceutical composition comprising the foam component according to claim 23.

40. A detergent composition, cosmetic composition, personal care composition or pharmaceutical composition comprising the foam component according to claim 23, in the form of an encapsulate.

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41. The composition according to claim 40, wherein said foam is in the form of a sheet.

42. An absorbent article comprising the foam component according to claim 23.

43. A method of using the foam component according to claim 23 to deliver active ingredients to an aqueous environment, comprising the steps of contacting an aqueous environment with said foam component.

44. A method of using the foam component according to claim 23 to incorporating active

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ingredients, said method comprising the step of incorporating an active ingredient into said foam component, said active ingredients selected from the group consisting of: enzymes, perfumes, surfactants, brighteners, bleaches, bleach activators, fabric softeners, fabric conditioners, antibacterial agents, effervescing systems and mixtures thereof.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein said active ingredient is delivered into a composition, selected from the group consisting of: cleaning compositions, fabric care compositions, personal care compositions, cosmetic compositions, pharmaceutical compositions and mixtures thereof.


CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place the present claims in condition for allowance. WHEREFORE, entry of the amendments provided herewith, and allowance of Claims 23 to 45, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DIDIER MARCEL CORRAND, et al.

By


T. David Reed
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 32,931

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5299 Spring Grove Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45217-1087
Phone: (513) 627-7025
FAX: (513) 627-6333

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